

# THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT AT WORK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, JANUARY 9.

The vigorous action exhibited by the Chamber of Deputies at the beginning of this the second session is decidedly a hopeful sign for Turkey. It speaks of the growth of a national spirit, which must bear good fruit in time in reforming the administration, checking the abuses of Government, and guarding the liberties of the subject. Far from being the mere tool of the Ministers, as was expected would have been the case, the Ottoman Parliament is showing a most independent spirit, and guarding with the greatest jealousy the prerogatives conferred upon it by the Constitution. In the last Chamber, although it spoke loudly enough upon some questions, it was the Mussulman members alone who brought forward any matters for discussion, the Christians having little to say upon any subject. In the present House; however, it is the voice of the latter which is heard loudest in debate and is the most ready to criticise the conduct of Ministers. It is but within the last few days that the sittings of the Chamber have been open to the public, and already much of interest has taken place and become generally known. The speaking members have come to the front, and it is seen who will be the leaders in all the subsequent debates. Some of them

are powerful speakers, with a rapid delivery and a command of language rising at times to eloquence, whilst others are sharp in argument, seeing clearly the weak points in an opponent's case, and possessing the faculty of expressing their views clearly in a few well-chosen words. Amongst the most remarkable of the deputies is Yeni-Chehvile Ahmed Effendi, one of the representatives for Smyrna, a man of ripe intelligence, known probity, and great independence of character. Another is Moustapha Bey, of Salonica, who is acting as secretary, a young man with Democratic tendencies and great determination, who requires but a little more practice to speak exceedingly well in public. Naafi Effendi, of had the military direction of affairs. Davitchon Effendi, of Yanina, another Christian; Saadi Effendi, of Marache; Manouk Effendi, of Adana; and Ahmed Effendi, of Constantinople, are other deputies of declared views, who may be said to side with those previously mentioned, and to form the party of the Left, as far as the House can be considered as divided into political sections. Foremost as a speaker amongst those of the Right is Agop Effendi, an Armenian, of Constantinople, and *employé* of the Imperial Ottoman Bank; and by his side are Mehemed Shefket Pasha, of Salonica, Kerim Effendi, Kemal Effendi, and Sadyk and Yousseuf Pashas.

After the opening of the Chambers, the verification of the deputies' elections, and the appointment of working committees, the Assembly immediately proceeded to discuss the reply to the Speech from the Throne, and this it is which has given rise to the various interpellations now taking place. Said Pasha, the newly-appointed Minister of Marine, has had to appear, and was somewhat roughly handled on account of the loss of the Messine and the political questions which have arisen out of the blockade of the Black Sea. The special sitting was held on Saturday last, and the Minister of Marine had to undergo as severe a cross-examination and listen to as unpleasant remarks as any unfortunate witness in a law court. Naafi Effendi, having framed the direct interpellation of the Minister of Marine, opened the subject in a speech of which the following is the substance:—

Since the commencement of the war, he said, our Government has declared the Black Sea to be in a state of blockade. Our fleet may justly be considered as equal to the performance of any service such a declaration might require; but, in addition to this, it was expected that great damage would have been inflicted upon the enemy. We have been deceived. Russian cruisers have traversed the Black Sea at will, and the firing of cannon off Kilia alarmed the population of the capital, as the enemy's vessels were destroying our merchant ships. The Russians have only in the Black Sea a few steam transports, and yet these have sufficed to show our weakness as a naval power. It is disgraceful for our Government to have declared a blockade it had not the means to enforce. After the Kilia incident the people of Trebizonde, alarmed for their safety, petitioned the Minister of Marine to take some steps for the defence of the coast, but not the slightest notice of this was taken by that department. The institution of the blockade was expected to have brought profit to us, with loss to the enemy; but, seeing that this was impossible, would it not have been preferable to have thought of defending our own coasts? It is the neglect of our own coasts which has caused the loss of the Messine. Pan-slavism has been the principal cause of the war; how is

Said Pasha made out what must be considered a good case in reply to this speech, and gave answers with which a less zealous and more experienced tribunal would have been satisfied. The majority of the Chamber refused, however, to consider the explanations as satisfactory or conclusive, and it was decided that written replies should be given to questions which should be submitted on paper to Said Pasha. The explanations given to the Lower Chamber on Saturday last on naval matters were much as follow:—

His Excellency commenced by remarking that there were certain points in the address of Naafi Effendi which could not be answered at a public sitting. The iron-clad fleet, with the exception of the small craft of the Danube flotilla, consists only of some twelve ships, and with these an immense length of coast has to be protected which stretches away from Batoum to the Adriatic. The naval administration had done its best, and had nothing to reproach itself with in the loss of the Messine. The Russians have some very swift vessels with which they were enabled to break the blockade; and it should not be forgotten that although in the Crimean War the Black Sea was entirely in the power of the allied fleet, still the enemy's ships made their appearance in the Turkish ports, whilst during the war in America what exploits were not performed by the Alabama? Was it possible, Said Pasha asked, to have an inquiry into the naval administration upon such an isolated fact as that of the loss of the Messine? Ships, His Excellency continued, were sta-

ioned at Sulina, Batoum, Volo, Creta, and in the Adriatic; but the largest fleet in the world would not suffice for such a protection of the coast as that to which the interpellation would seem to refer. Just as the "flying squadron" had been formed its services were required at Houkhoum Kaleh, and it never was able to carry out the design which had given birth to it. The expedition to the Caucasus was abandoned, and to the fleet was left the task of removing not only the troops, but some 50,000 of the people, with their flocks, their herds, and their household goods, who could not with honour have been abandoned to the enemy. The navy had rendered immense service during the past few months in the transport of troops, provisions, and munitions of war. Notwithstanding the constant repairs necessitated by the continual running about, the transport service had always been well maintained. Whilst other nations would have employed private ships, the Turks had done their work entirely with their own vessels, and the deputies might rest assured that the men of war were never suffered to remain idle or unoccupied. Amongst other great difficulties the Marine Department had to contend with was the coal supply, and this also had had to be maintained by the ships of the State. Over 200,000 tons had been removed from Heraclea since the war, and coal had been sent even as far as Antivari.

A very lively discussion then ensued, in the course of which Said Pasha was informed that he was a paid servant and was expected to do his duty. As to the capture of the Messine, Said Pasha con-

all from passing in or out of the Russian ports. Reouf Pasha was present also at this sitting as the outgoing Minister, and endeavoured to smooth matters by giving evidence as to the state and condition of the unfortunate vessel, describing her as old and worn out both in machinery and hull. But the deputies would have none of it, demanding of His Excellency whether the loss of 700 soldiers could count for nothing. Said Pasha was then asked how it was that 23 ships laden with corn had managed to succeed in passing the blockade. To this particular question no reply was given, though it was again pointed out that with six ships alone a strict blockade along such an extended coast, as the Russians possessed in the Black Sea could not be maintained, and it was seen during the Cretan war how with the whole fleet blockading the island it was still impossible to stop entirely the running of the Greek corsairs. Several other questions were then asked relative to minor details, to which no Minister could possibly have replied without previous notice, such as the absence or otherwise of particular fittings to certain transports, the treatment of the sick and wounded on board of one of the same company's steamers, the state of health of the port captain at Varna, and the operations of the flotilla in the Danube. Said Pasha had some three hours

of this badgering, and must have left the sitting with anything but the most friendly feeling towards the members. The Chamber is making a mistake in persisting in their attack upon a Minister acknowledged by all to possess great administrative capacity, energy, and honesty of purpose. The endeavour to fasten all the shortcomings of the naval administration since the commencement of the war upon the shoulders of Said Pasha is most unjust. It is only within the last few days that the new Minister has been really in office, and already more vigorous action has set in everywhere at the Arsenal. His Excellency, it is true, has been acting for a few months past as "Kaimakam" (lieutenant) to Reouf Pasha; but in this position it was impossible to wield all the power and authority necessary for keeping up to their work a lot of jealous subordinates, whose personal ambition would lead them to desire anything but a successful administration. These interpellations will, however, produce a very good effect if not carried to excess, as they will make the Government chary of sanctioning old abuses and lead to the introduction of important reforms.

This examination into naval affairs was not the Director of the Posts and Telegraphs, was called to the bar and asked the reason why telegrams to Europe relating to what takes place at the public sittings of the Chamber should be stopped at the office, the House desiring to know whether it was upon his own responsibility that this sort of thing was being done, or by order of superior authority. When the Constitution was upon its trial, as it were, in the face of Europe, what would be thought, one of the deputies pertinently asked, of such childish practices? The Director must have had a very disagreeable time of it, to judge from his countenance on re-appearing at his office, and I hope that the lesson he has received will make him in future; less arbitrary in his decisions as to what intelligence may be allowed to proceed by telegraph. Just now it is impossible to say by what rule or regulation the Telegraph Office is guided in respect to despatches; messages of the most simple description sent by some persons, which contain no intelligence of military movements, and the publication of which could not possibly injure any public interest, are stopped, whilst others containing intelligence of a really startling character are allowed to proceed.

I have spoken of the increased activity at the Arsenal since the appointment of Said Pasha as

Minister of Marine. Orders have been sent to Hobart Pasha to annoy the enemy in every way possible, and Manthorpe Bey has sailed for the Crimean coast in the independent command of a squadron of iron-clads. Said Pasha, finding that he could not trust the Turkish commanders to carry out their instructions strictly, has thus placed a foreigner and a Christian in command, who from what I have seen of him will not hesitate for a moment in attacking whenever and wherever a favourable opportunity occurs. The special mission of Manthorpe Bey is to watch the northern ports, but he has *carte blanche* as to all offensive operations he may think it right to carry out. His Commodore's pendant is hoisted on board the *Arsari Tefyk*, the former flagship of Hobart Pasha, which broke down some three months ago on a voyage to the Crimean coast. She has now been thoroughly repaired, and is decidedly the finest cruiser the Turks have in their service. In addition to this vessel, Manthorpe has under his command the *Mamoudieh*, broadside iron-clad frigate—a fine sea-going vessel with good sailing qualities favourable

## THE FUNERAL OF KING VICTOR EMANUEL.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

ROME, FRIDAY.

At last the obsequies of Victor Emanuel are over and nothing remains but the gradual dispersion of the enormous crowds which have flocked from every part of Italy to take part in the last sad ceremonies. It has been quite evident from the character of the demonstration that the Italians determined to mark on this occasion their deep feelings of regret for and gratitude towards the late King, and to identify once and for ever the fortunes of united Italy and of the House of Savoy with the new capital. Order and good feeling have reigned everywhere, though the crowds have been so dense that to thread such favourite streets as the Corso or the Via Venti Settembre has been a feat of patience and labour. Everywhere the people have appeared subdued and sympathetic, really affected by a sense of national loss and quite free from those disagreeable elements which an English mind naturally associates with a crowd. The spectacle of the last few days has, I must own, impressed me very greatly with the hold which the new order of things has on the minds of the Italians, and although I am fully sensible of the

constant and imminent peril from within and without which threaten the unity of this country, I cannot but be re-assured by observing the evident vigour of the national sentiment.

I have already, in a previous letter, told you that last Saturday King Humbert received the oath of the Roman garrison at the Campo Militare. On that day also, and the two following, the corpse of the late King lay exposed to public gaze in the Hall of the Swiss at the Quirinal. The crowds who went to visit it were immense. A friend of mine, who had incautiously got mixed up amongst the people at the entrance, was swept along with them much to his own discomfort, for they every now and then tried to rush, and for a minute or two, to use his own words, "I wished I was safe at home." From 70,000 to 80,000 people had visited the "chappelle ardente" by Monday morning, and there seemed an equal crowd climbing the Quirinal hill all that day.

Every day some great person has been arriving and helping to keep up the excitement. First came the Archduke Ranieri of Austria, as representative ages as Marshal Canrobert and the Earl of Roden, the "representative extraordinary" of our own country. It would be needless to add that at this critical period of the Russo-Turkish war there are plenty of hints in the papers that the visit of the German Prince is of political significance, as well as that the presence at the funeral of a member of the once hated house of Austria has been considered as no less significant. On Wednesday evening, after a tremendous journey, without any stoppages for rest, from Lisbon *via* Madrid and Paris, the Queen of Portugal (sister of King Humbert) arrived with her eldest son. The Romans, pleased, I suppose, at her energy, gave her an enthusiastic reception. From four in the afternoon until nine o'clock they patiently waited in the streets for her arrival, and when she reached the Quirinal in a carriage with her brother there was a tremendous shout of "Viva la figlia del Re Galantuomo." She seemed very worn out, and so was probably her little boy, who is fair, and said to resemble the young Prince of Naples. By yesterday morning Rome was as full as it could hold. The hotels were crammed, the theatres were utilised as lodgings, and the Colosseum was temporarily converted into a cavalry stable. Some 80,000 troops, sailors, and marines had come

to help the garrison to line the streets; and it was said there were 100,000 strangers and more in the city. Quite early every one was astir, and about eight o'clock the soldiers began to occupy the route from the Quirinal to the Pantheon.

The Pantheon is rather difficult of access, being placed in the middle of a network of narrow streets between the Corso and the Tiber. Although one of the most striking buildings here and most memorable for its great antiquity, it is not well adapted for a great State function. However, I suppose the Ministry were glad to get over the matter as best they could, and did not like to press the Vatican for along the Corso and down side streets to the Pantheon. Its length was enormous, and it took two hours and a half to pass the Hotel de Londres, in the Piazza di Spagna, from which I looked on. First came the Royal Cuirassiers, preceded by a band, and then a number of troops—artillery, engineers, marines, battalions of the picturesque Bersaglieri and Alpine regiments, and infantry in dull blue. They were followed by detachments from the military schools, and later by a brilliant assemblage of officers of all ranks and in every conceivable uniform. Somewhat dull by contrast looked the black-coated civilians, who came next; but soon again the eye was agreeably distracted by the red gown of the Rector of the Roman University, with his quaint, mediævally costumed professors in birettas and oddly-cut gowns, and by the sumptuous crimson velvet robes and white ermine hoods of the supreme judges of the law courts. Then appeared the deputies and senators, preceding a band of white-garbed clergy, who were flanked by the great officials of State; and after a brilliant band of ambassadors and representatives of foreign courts and Knights of the Italian Orders of the Annunziata walked the Grand Duke Ranieri, the Imperial Prince, the Prince of Carignan, the brothers of the King, and last of all the King himself. The gilt hearse was dragged by six horses, covered with crape, with great plumes, and led by footmen. On each side walked the Ministers and the Royal Household, and behind was borne that interesting relic, the Iron Crown of Lombardy. The banners of the army and endless deputations from all the Italian towns came next, and it was nearly one before the last of the procession disappeared. The ceremony at the church was simple but impressive. The church had been hastily but effectively decorated, and the service was performed by the curé of the church of Sts. Anastasio and Vincenzo, in whose pariah the Quirinal lies.



A curious feature of the day's proceedings was the marked absence from the procession and the streets of clergy, if I except the very scanty body of priests and acolytes who preceded the car. Ordinarily the streets swarm with ecclesiastics young and old, but yesterday they were rare enough, and it marks characteristically the present relation of Church and State in this country that the function of burying the King should have been performed by no dignitary of more exalted rank than a *curé*. A circumstance which many must have regretted was the absence of Garibaldi from this great ceremony, for there would have been a real fitness in the presence of that conspicuous patriot. But he was not here, nor do I observe in the papers any allusion to him. It is true that he is not and never has been a courtier, and that he has been always independent in his life and actions. Nevertheless the object of his career has had a common aim with that of Victor Emanuel, and his figure amidst those of the veterans of former wars would have lent a notable

**KING VICTOR EMANUEL AND CARDINAL MANNING.**

The *Standard* has received the following communication from the Italian Embassy:—

LONDON, MONDAY.

In the *Standard* of to-day has been published a letter from the Rev. Raphael Nenci, rector of the Italian Church of St. Peter's, in which he states, "in explanation of his former communication to the Italian Ambassador, that he received on Friday permission from Cardinal Manning to have a solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late King Victor Emanuel, which he communicated at once to the Italian Ambassador." As that letter is likely to lead the public into error as to the true meaning of the final permission given by Cardinal Manning, it becomes necessary to put forward a statement of facts. The Italians residing in London having spontaneously agreed upon the celebration of a Requiem Mass to the memory of the late King Victor Emanuel in St. Peter's Church, E.C. and having asked the Italian Ambassador to attend, the rector of the above church did not accede to their request without asking the authorisation of Cardinal Manning, still at Rome. By a letter, dated the 14th inst. the Reverend Father Pius Melia, almoner of the Italian Benevolent Society in London, communicated the following telegram to the Italian Ambassador:—"Our Cardinal Archbishop Manning does not permit the celebration of a Requiem Mass for the late King. Permits, however, that on a fixed day all the low Masses be dedicated to the late King." Nevertheless, Father Melia, perceiving the bad

impression this refusal had created on the minds of the Italian residents in London, telegraphed to the Cardinal, begging His Eminence to withdraw his refusal. The answer not having reached London until the 18th inst. it was thought the Cardinal still persisted in his refusal, and Father Meila in his letter of the 17th inst. states that he has lost any hope the Cardinal would withdraw his refusal. Therefore, the invitations for the ceremony, which was to take place on the 18th inst. were withdrawn, and the Italian Consul General, Baron Heath, invited those who had contributed to the expenses of the ceremony to take back their respective offerings. After this took place Father Meila communicated to the Italian Ambassador the following letter from the Pope's *nonce apostolique* in Paris, addressed to the Rev. Nenci:—"Paris, January 17, 1878.—I hasten to communicate to you the following telegram I received from Rome:—"Father Nenci and the clergy of St. Peter's Church have permission to celebrate a Requiem Mass for the late King, provided the ecclesiastical ceremony has not the character of a political demonstration.—(Signed) CARDINAL MANNING." The Italian Ambassador could only perceive in that conditional permission a hidden refusal from Cardinal Manning for the celebration of the

(*"TIMES" TELEGRAM.*)

ROME, MONDAY.

At Bologna and Piacenza the bishops' refusal to celebrate funeral Masses for the late King provoke popular disturbances. At Piacenza the bishop's carriage was mobbed and the Palace windows broken. The rioters were only dispersed by the intervention of the public force; some of the rioters were wounded, and arrests were made. The Cathedral is guarded by troops.

In Lombardy and Piedmont the bishops and clergy initiated the movement to pay funeral honours to the King's memory, the clergy severely blaming an Ultramontane paper for unbecoming language against the departed.

A Papal allocution, alluding to the death of Victor Emanuel and the accession of King Humbert, is soon expected.

An address of thanks to the Senate and Convocation of the University of London, for their action in opening to women all the degrees of the University, is being circulated for signature.

**APROPOS DES BOTTES.**—By the chance resemblance of a foreign word a learned man has been led into a very comical error. For the French *Dictionnaire de la Conversation* M. Bouchitté has compiled a biography of Jacob Böhme, and supplements it by a list of the numerous writings of the philosophical shoemaker. Among these he cites "*Reflections sur les bottes d'Isaie.*" The notion of a shoemaker devoting some time to reflections on Isaiah's boots appears sufficiently in accordance with a well-known axiom invented for the instruction of the craft. But the fact is that what Jacob wrote was an essay on the theological dissertation of Professor Isaias Stiefel. Now Stiefel is German for boots, and to that extent M. Bouchitté was correct enough in supposing that Jacob Böhme had been casting reflections on Isaiah's boots.—*Magfair.*

**TWO WOMEN SUFFOCATED IN DUNDEE.**—On Monday night it was discovered that two women, a mother and daughter, had been suffocated in Dundee by inhaling gas. It appears that Mrs. Fields, about 56 years of age, occupied, with her daughter Elizabeth, aged 19, rooms in Foundry Lane. In the course of Sunday Robert Gordon, plumber and gasfitter, who occupies a portion of the tenement, noticed a strong smell of gas. His efforts to learn the source of the escape proving ineffectual, he concluded that the smell arose from some derangement of the sewer. The Fields not having been seen on Monday, the door was forced open, and mother and daughter were found in bed, both dead. Their faces bore no sign of suffering. Both had inhaled the gas to such an extent as to cause suffocation. It was found that a pipe  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter, situated in the coal bunker, had been broken, allowing an extraordinary escape.